

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(October 30, 2008)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

[Ashar Afzal, M.D.](#), a 39 year-old physician who practices pain medicine in Waterloo, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board. On October 23, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Afzal with engaging in a pattern of sexual misconduct in the practice of medicine. The Board charged Dr. Afzal with inappropriately touching two female patients in a sexual manner while providing medical care. A hearing has been scheduled on December 1, 2008.

[Christie M. Mensch, M.D.](#), a 35 year-old Iowa-licensed physician from Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, entered into a Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. On November 19, 2007, Dr. Mensch entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board. Dr. Mensch was issued a permanent Iowa medical license and she entered into a Physician Health Contract with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) for substance abuse monitoring. On October 23, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Mensch with violating the IPHP Physician Health Contract. Dr. Mensch was placed on probation for a period of two years subject to substance abuse monitoring and she was issued a public reprimand and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.

[Frederick W. Strickland, D.O.](#), a 64 year-old family practice physician from Des Moines, Iowa, had his Iowa medical license reinstated by the Board. On October 12, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Strickland with failing to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation in violation of a Board Order. On June 12, 2008, the Board suspended Dr. Strickland's Iowa medical license and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine. Dr. Strickland subsequently completed a comprehensive competency evaluation at the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program (PACE) at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center. PACE identified professional competency deficiencies and recommended that Dr. Strickland complete a structured remediation program. On October 23, 2008, the Board reinstated Dr. Strickland's Iowa medical license. Under the terms of the Reinstatement Order, Dr. Strickland was issued a public reprimand and he was placed on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. Dr. Strickland also agreed to complete the structured remediation program recommended by PACE and have his medical practice monitored by a Board-approved, Iowa-licensed, physician.

[Mary Anna Woodard, M.D.](#), a 54 year-old physician who formerly practiced medicine in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against her by the Board. On February 16, 2007, Dr. Woodard entered into a Physician Health Contract with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) for mental health monitoring. On October 23, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Woodard with violating the terms of the Physician Health Contract when she failed to: meet with her monitoring psychiatrist and ensure that the psychiatrist filed required reports; meet with her therapist and ensure that the therapist filed required reports; file required quarterly reports; and regularly communicate the status of her medical practice and her future practice plans with the IPHP. A hearing has been scheduled on March 11, 2009.